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(54) Title: METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING SHORT MESSAGE ORIGINATOR CATEGORY IN A DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE NETWORK

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a method for determining the originator information of a short message in a digital mobile phone network comprising at least one short message service center (SC), in which network a mobile services switching center (MSC) generates a call record from the forwarding operation of the short message. According to the invention, the short message originator categories call the short message service center (SC) using at least two different addresses, the short message service center (SC) modifies its address identification number used in addressing the mobile services switching center (MSC) to a form corresponding to the short message originator category, and finally, numeric analysis is used to identify the short message originator category from the address field of the call record generated by the mobile services switching center (MSC).

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Method for identifying short message originator category in a digital mobile phone network

The invention relates to a method according to the preamble of claim 1 for the identification of short message originator category in a digital mobile phone network.

According to the conventional techniques illustrated in Fig. 1, the short message service center SC of the short message service defined in a GSM system is formed by a network component external to the system, whereby the external service center can be addressed from the GSM network uniquely using a dedicated address identification number. The address identification number conforms to the numbering plan defined in the CCITT Recommendation E.164. In a short message (SMS MT) terminated at mobile station MS, the short message is forwarded to the mobile via a mobile services switching center MSC. Then, the mobile services switching center MSC generates a call record linked to the forwarding operation of the short message.

With a further reference to Fig. 1, some other possible originators of mobile terminated short messages are indicated. The data fields of the call record generated by the mobile services switching center MSC do not permit direct identification of whether the originator of the initial short message is another mobile station MS as indicated by arrow 1 in the drawing or some application system or program connected to the short message service center. Such a short-messages-generating system which is connected to the SC outside the GSM system may be, e.g., a paging application, a teletext system, an answering service, voice mail as indicated by arrow 2 or an e-mail system or terminal connection system as indicated by arrow 3.

It is an object of the present invention to overcome the drawbacks of the above-described prior-art techniques and to achieve an entirely novel method of defining the originator information of a short message in a digital mobile phone network.

- 5 The goal of the invention is accomplished by a scheme comprising each originator group, i.e., originator category of a short message calling the service center using its own address, the short message service center modifying its address identification number used in addressing the mobile services switching center to a form corresponding to the short message originator and finally using numeric analysis
10 to identify the short message originator category from the address field of the call record generated by the mobile services switching center.

More specifically, the method according to the invention is characterized by what is stated in the characterizing part of claim 1.

- 15 The invention offers significant benefits.

The invention is capable of allocating the costs associated with the short message service to the short message originator if so desired. At will major user groups can
20 be granted quantity discounts while small user groups are billed at a slightly higher rate. The delivery of short messages can be logged in statistics files by user group for planning tariff changes.

- 25 In the following, the invention will be examined in more detail with reference to exemplifying embodiments illustrated in the attached drawings, in which:

- Figure 1 is a block diagram showing a prior-art system suited to accommodate the implementation of the present invention; and
30 Figure 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating the generation scheme of the short message service switching center address.

Referring to the diagrams, the identification of the original originator of a short message from a call record generated by a mobile services switching center MSC for a mobile terminated short message service SMS MT can be implemented by modifying the address information of the short message service center SC so that each short message originator sets the address of the service center SC at a different value. The short message forwarding protocol data unit, which for the reception of the short message by the SC is SMS-SUBMIT and for the delivery of the short message by the SC is SMS-DELIVERY, also contains information indicating the originator of the short message. This address identified by the originator is given as a call record parameter value in the Originating-Address data field.

The short message service center SC is provided with software capable of identifying the originator of the short message on the basis of the address given in the Originating-Address data field. Correspondingly, the short message service center SC can, in accordance with the message originating party, alter the address identification number shown by the short message service center SC itself to the mobile services switching center MSC. Hence, a physically single SC can have a plurality of logically separate SC's forwarding mobile short messages terminated at different mobiles. The originating party of a short message can be identified uniquely from the SC_Address value of the call record generated by the mobile services switching center MSC. In the postprocessing of charging data, numeric analysis can be performed on the address field of the SC, and thus, the short messages initiated by the different originator categories can be priced differently for the receiving parties. Referring to Fig. 2, the processing principles of the SC address data described above is shown in a block diagram. When expressed in the international format, the address number of the service center SC in a GSM network may in a short message terminated to a mobile station be expressed, e.g., as listed below:

30 SC_address +358 50 3456 700 - address in short messages originated by other mobile stations

4

+358 50 3456 701

- address in short messages generated by the
answering service

+358 50 3456 702

- address in short messages originated by
e-mail

5

+358 50 3456 703

- address in short messages transmitted via a
terminal connection

+358 50 3456 711

- address in short messages generated by the
fax service

10

15

Also arbitrary numbering can be used, whereby the address selection of the service center need not comprise consecutive addresses of the CCITT Recommendation E.164, but rather, the addresses of the SC may be chosen arbitrarily for each terminating short message type unrestrictedly from any point of the numbering plan space.

Claims:

1. A method for determining the originator information of a short message in a digital mobile phone network comprising at least one short message service center (SC), in which network a mobile services switching center (MSC) generates a call record from the forwarding operation of the short message,

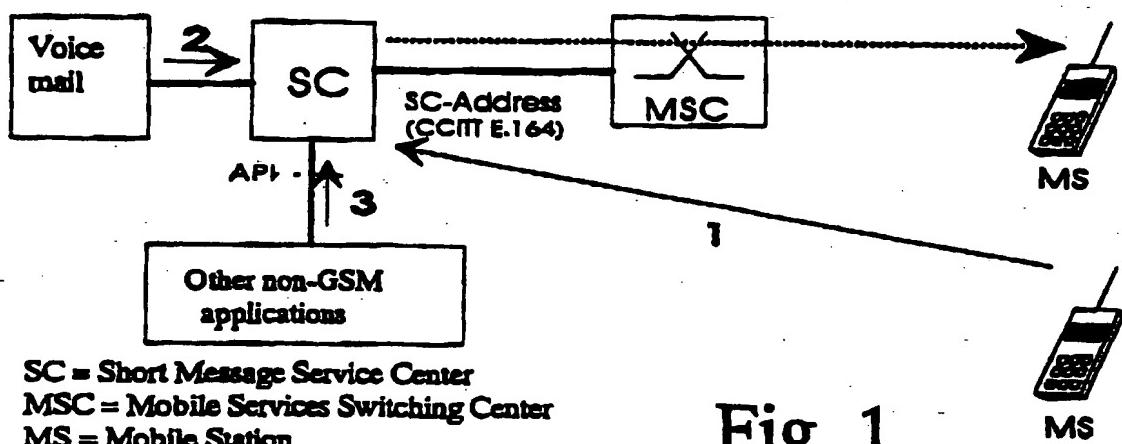
characterized in that

10 the short message originator categories call the short message service center (SC) using at least two different addresses, the short message service center (SC) modifies its address identification number used in addressing the mobile services switching center (MSC) to a form corresponding to the short message originator category, and finally, numeric analysis is used to identify the short message originator category from the address field of the call record generated by the mobile services switching center (MSC).

15 20 2. A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that each short message originator category uses an individual address for calling the service center.

3. A method as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the short message originator category information is utilized in network capacity planning.

25 4. A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the numeric analysis is performed in the mobile phone network.



SC = Short Message Service Center
MSC = Mobile Services Switching Center
MS = Mobile Station
API = Application Program Interface

Fig. 1

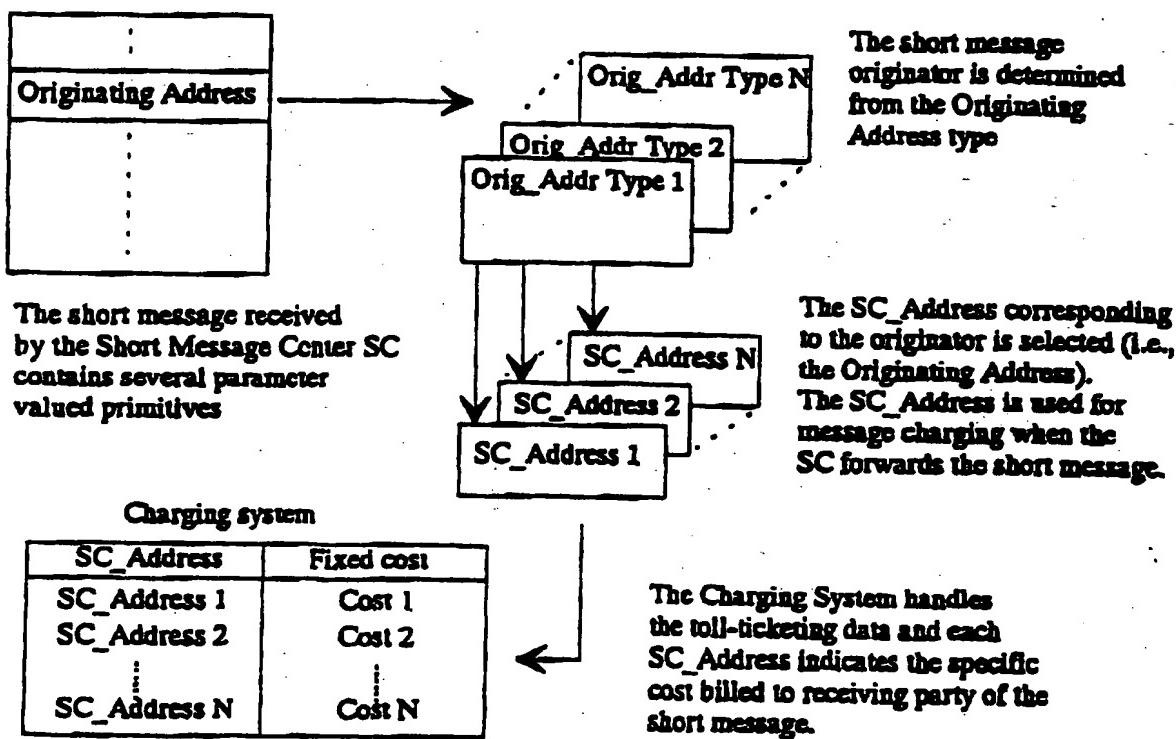


Fig. 2